**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** 

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. The Examiner points to patentably

distinct species in claims 2 and 3. Applicants herein elect sulfamic acid recited in claim 2 as the

nitrite reducing agent, and the dye represented by the formula (10) in claim 3 as the polymethine

dye. The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1-19.

The present Amendment also corrects certain typographical and grammatical errors in the

claims.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the

present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be

charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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